

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Original): A vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus for monitoring surroundings of an own vehicle, comprising:

imaging means for taking picture images and for outputting image information;

radar means;

first solid object detecting means for detecting first solid objects based on said image information;

second solid object detecting means for detecting second solid objects based on signals from said radar means;

fusion solid object establishing means for establishing fusion solid objects composed of single first solid objects, single second solid objects and a combination of said first solid objects and said second solid objects by fusing said first solid objects and said second solid objects;

first reliability judging means for judging a degree of reliability of said fusion solid objects based on a detecting situation of said respective fusion solid objects by said first solid object detecting means;

second reliability judging means for judging a degree of reliability of said fusion solid objects based on a detecting situation of said respective fusion solid objects by said second solid object detecting means; and

preceding vehicle selecting means for selecting a preceding vehicle from said fusion solid objects when it is judged that said fusion solid objects have a specified level of reliability according to either of said first reliability judging means and said second reliability judging means.

Claim 3 (Original): The vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus according to claim 2,



Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus for monitoring surroundings of an own vehicle, comprising:

imaging means for taking picture images and for outputting image information;

radar means;

first solid object detecting means for detecting first solid objects based on said image information;

second solid object detecting means for detecting second solid objects based on signals from said radar means;

fusion solid object establishing means for establishing fusion solid objects composed of single first solid objects, single second solid objects or a combination of said first solid objects and said second solid objects by fusing said first solid objects and said second solid objects;

first reliability judging means for judging a degree of reliability of said fusion solid objects based on a detecting situation of said fusion solid objects by said first solid object detecting means;

second reliability judging means for judging a degree of reliability of said fusion solid objects based on a detecting situation of said fusion solid objects by said second solid object detecting means; and

preceding vehicle selecting means for selecting a preceding vehicle from said fusion solid objects when it is judged that said fusion solid objects have a specified level of reliability according to either of said first reliability judging means and said second reliability judging means.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein said first solid object detecting means register a solid object having at least two surfaces connected with each other through a corner as a corner-like solid object and



